

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, July 22. 1708.

Give me Children, or else I die, says Rachel to Jacob; Give us Victory, or else YOU DIE, is our Language to all the great Men that fight for us, or act for us in the great Affairs of the Nation.

Mad Man. And what then, Mr. Review? **Review.** Are you there, Sir? I did not think I had a Knave so near me; but since like your self you are putting your Discourse upon us in every Occasion, I shall say out what I was going to say, and then you may shoot your Bolt; I say, we have been acting two Parts in the World fit for nothing but the *Dark-House* you came out of, call'd *Bethlehem*.

M. And so you are coming to my first Notion, that you are all mad; it is a strange thing you would not believe me at first.

Rev. I am upon Particulars, you are upon Generals; I am speaking to one Case—

M. At a time, you mean, till *One by One* you run thro' the whole Stage of *Europe*, and my Sences for Yours, *and that's a Wager but little Odds in it*, you go thro' all the Classes of Mankind at last, and vote them all mad, as I have done already.

Rev. Perhaps I may leave out my self, Mr. *Mad Man*.

M. Ay, ay, it may be so, but I shall take care of that for you, and bring you in fast enough; but to your Complaint, pray, who are you upon now?

Rev. Why

Rev. Why I am complaining of our Impatience for Victory, putting Man in God's Stead, and expecting it from them, or damning them for Want of it; our Unthankfulness when we have it, and our valuing our Instruments above the Principal in the thing it self— Are not these things that ought to be complain'd of, and which give just Ground of Reflection?

M. These are Things which help to tell you, *you are all mad*, acting from wrong Principles, and pushing at wrong Ends; but I must interrupt you a little, Mr. Sir, they say *you* are what I assure you I never thought you to be.

Rev. What is that, a *High-Flyer*? I hear, Somebody has show'd their Wit upon me that way; I thought it had been you indeed, Sir, by the Weight of it—It looks as if it came out of a Head, *a House I should say*, where the upper Rooms are very ill furnish'd.

M. No, no, indeed I have heard of that Pamphlet too, and that you are about answering of it.

Rev. Indeed at this time I have some better Employment.

M. Truly you will very much disappoint the Author, if you do not.

Rev. Then you shall condole with him; for I assure you, I am so far from answering it, that upon my word I have not seen it, nor so much as enquir'd for it—

M. That's a mad thing again; why he charges you with abusing the QUEEN.

Rev. When he indicts me for it, I shall defend my self; it's not long ago the same Author would have me be an Agent for the Government—Now I am against the Government it seems, and am turn'd *High Flyer*; suppose he should in the next Pamphlet he writes, *by the by*, tell you I am a *Mahometan*; do you think, it would be needful for me to print a Confession of my Faith to clear up the Scandal? —No, no, if I should reply to such Stuff as that, I should come into your Class indeed, and ought to have the Key of your Chamber in *Bethlehem* lent to me—

M. Truly, I think you are right in that.—But this is not what I am upon, you have another Charge upon you.

Rev. Well, what is it pray?

M. Why, they say you are a Conjurer, and I assure you, I never took you for that in my Life.

Rev. You mean, *proverbially I suppose*, that is, you took me for a Fool; I'll plead Guilty, if you indict me for a Fool, but if for a Conjurer, I must defend my self; pray, how is it?

M. I know not whether you are to be reckoned a Conjurer, or that you are among the new Prophets; but they say, that you took upon you in your *Review* of the 29th of June to foretell this Victory— And I desire to know, which way you came by your *second Sight* in that Matter, for I am sure, there was no Prospect of it then, but just the contrary, and yet you told us *positively* then, that two Months should not pass over our Heads, *but we should bear of a Victory*; this was very positive, Sir, very positive indeed.

Rev. If that be your Charge, I shall answer it more gravely than perhaps you expect; I have always been of the Opinion, *tho' I knew the World was so universally prejudiced at Persons and Things*, that there was no speaking of it to be heard, that the Sum of this War depended in *Flanders*— That, the Fate of the most remote Articles would be best determin'd there, that *Bavaria* might be kept, *Spain* recover'd, the Duke of *Savoy* relieved, the King of *Portugal* defended, all at once by the Affair in *Flanders*; this I demonstrated in the *Review* of Dec. Vol. IV. and shew'd them, what I presume you will now find true, that a Victory in *Flanders*, well follow'd, would cause *France* to abandon all his extreme Parts, disgorge his remote Conquests, and call home his scatter'd Armies, like a Body swooning, when the Spirits retire to defend the Heart— And from this Principle, however ill it relish'd with some Generals, who being employ'd in other Parts thought themselves neglected; I must own, I always thought, that to form a superior Force in *Flanders* to the *French*, and be thereby able to push them either from their invincible Barrier of *Flanders*, or bring them to a decisive Action there, was the shortest way to end this War; and if you will have me give

give you my Authority for it, I must tell you, that besides the Judgment of Experience which any Body, *that has observ'd things*, may make as well as I, I have had the Honour to hear the Glorious Deliverer of this unthankful Nation, the abused and forgotten King *William*, give it not as his Opinion only, but give Reasons for it too strong for any of our Objectors to answer, which however I omit here.

From this Royal Authority I have taken the Rise of my Opinion, and I must say, I have seen it confirm'd by constant Experience, in my Observation of the Series of Action in this War, and let me hint a few Particulars.

When the great Battle of *Blenheim* was fought—what Effect it had on the Affairs of *France*? It lost *Bavaria* indeed, and strip'd the King of *France* of a great Part of his Conquests in *Germany*, it deliver'd the Emperor, and put a Stop to the spreading Triumphs of the *French*. But what Effect had it on *France* it self? They immediately appl'd to the restoring their Troops, and making whole their Breaches, they fetch'd off the broken Army, comforted the Duke of *Bavaria* by giving him the Government of *Flanders*; and the next Year you found them by a superior Force in *Flanders*, baulk'd you on the *Moselle*, and force the Duke of *Marlborough* to a swift March, to protect the *Dutch* from Destruction.

When the Battle of *Turin* was fought, another terrible Action to *France*, what Effect had that? Why truly just the same, it strip'd *France* of her *Italian* Triumphs, and brought the *French* King to quit a Prince, that in his Imagination he had devour'd—But all the Effect it had upon *France* it self, was only to quicken their Application, to the re-establishing Things on that side, which you see, he did so effectually, that in your first Attempt upon him, from thence he baulk'd the best contriv'd Design, that ever was laid against him, *Viz. That of Toulon*.

Come we next to the Siege of *Barcelona*, there the *French* receiv'd another terrible Blow—And what Effect had it upon *France*? Truly nothing at all, but when you beat him out of *Catalonia*, he march'd round the

Mountains, and entred by *Navarre*, beat you out of all your *Castilian* Enterprize, and the next Summer fought you at *Almanza*, entirely overthrew all your Hopes, and is now pushing fair for a second Siege at *Barcelona*.

But then come we to the Battle of *Ramillies*—which was fought in *Flanders*, and this was no sooner fought, but what was the Consequence? It shook the very Gates of *Paris*, *Versailles* trembled, and the whole Kingdom of *France* was struck with Amazement; they fall on their Knees to GOD in a general Humiliation, of which I have spoken at large already, and they fall on their Knees to Man, for they immediately send to the *Dutch*, and to the Duke of *Marlborough*, if possible, to make Peace, which was thought fit to be rejected—

If you ask me what I tell this long Story for, and what Coherence it has with the Question in hand, I shall speak to that directly; *First*, it is a Proof of the Reasonableness of what I have alledg'd, *viz.*, that this whole War will be best decided in *Flanders*; and *secondly*, it will shew you, from what Ground I promised in a late *Review*, that you should have, if you would have Patience, A VICTORY.

I saw the Concert of Affairs between the Elector of *Hannover*, the Duke of *Marlborough*, and Prince *Eugene of Savoy* pointed plainly at *Flanders*; that all the Forces for the Service of the *Moselle* were evidently design'd to be brought down to *Flanders*, and that what Detachments could be spared from the *Rhine*, would all follow for *Flanders*: I knew, the Generals were hearty for the Conclusion of this heavy War, and would push the *French* to a Battle almost upon any Disadvantages; I knew, the great Desparity of Forces, I mean as to the Bravery of the Men and Goodness of the Troops; in short, all Things tended to a decisive Action, and the Confederates seem'd resolved to put it to a Day, upon whatever tollerable Hazard, upon these Suppositions, I ventur'd to assure you of a Victory, blaming your Impatience and Unthankfulness, as the only two things that seem'd to stand in the way of the glorious Prospect.